



One of the most popular spots in early Midway was Mrs. Agnes O'Neil's Hotel and Restaurant. Shown here in front of the building in this 1897 photograph are, left to right, Samuel O'Neil, Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, Helen Ritchie, baby James Ritchie, Aunt Nannie O'Neil, Agnes Ritchie, Samuel Hair, Rachel Hair and Robert Hair.

Written January 20, 1917, by William Lindsay:

'Tis many a year since first we met  
To visit Nannie O'Neil  
To celebrate her natal day  
And wish weh kind heart "weel"  
We met a hearty welcome  
In her cheerful, kindly way  
And many a happy time we've had  
With her the livelong day  
Many of those who used to come  
Have passed away and gone.

Their bodies sleeping in their graves  
'Til the resurrection morn  
Aunt Nannie, too, was called away  
When nearly eighty-seven  
And everyone of us feels sure  
That she is now in Heaven  
Because she kept the laws of God  
As nearly as she could  
And trusted everyone she met  
As all true Christians should.  
Those of her friends who yet remain  
Still hold the memory dear  
And gladly meet to celebrate  
Her Birthday every year.

At the peak of mining there were several Chinese cooks who hired in the area. "One Fan" was a beloved character who cooked at camps in the hills west of Midway. On one occasion young Nate Coleman came running to his father with an especially large piece of pie and exclaimed "Oh, Daddy, see what 'Parasol One' gave me."

Barber shops were operated at various times in Midway by Harry Bircumshaw, William Wheable, Thomas Hair, Mulholland Hair, Walter Van Wagoner and Bert Bonner.

John Mohlman and Mr. Kuhni repaired and made shoes.

Pool halls were operated by Erwin Alder, Walter Van Wagoner, Dow Epperman, Jack Derry and Keith Bronson.

When the railroads came to the area and transportation facilities improved many of the boarding houses closed.

The O'Neil hotel still stands on Midway's Main Street, used today as a private residence.

## BOARDING HOUSES

Midway boarding houses in the early mining days were a boon to the men who worked away from their homes. The money these transient workers left in the community was also a welcome asset to townspeople.

One of the more popular boarding establishments was run by Mrs. Agnes O'Neil, affectionately called "Aunt Nanny O Neil." She successfully managed the establishment for many years, and then when her health failed, a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Ritchie, took over the management. Another well regulated and popular boarding house was operated by Mrs. Letty Bronson. Some boarding houses were also kept at the mine sites. There was one at White Pine Canyon and another at the Snake Creek Tunnel. The Old Steamboat Mine also had a boarding house.